

Shepherd's Staff

August 2019

We gather to worship, we go to serve our Lord.

"You will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth!"

Parkersburg Christian Reformed Church

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. ~ Church School 10:45 a.m. ~ Life Plus Wed., 6:30 p.m.

That's Special

I think most of us enjoy a good walk in the beauty of nature. It is a part of God's plan to reveal himself to us that we should never overlook. It reminds me that while I was growing up, the phrase "I can worship God anywhere" was often heard. While the statement is absolutely true it was often used as an excuse for not worshipping at all.

I still find great pleasure while walking in the country, seeing the beautiful flowers and the wildlife that is so plentiful here in Iowa. We truly are blessed to live in such a diverse land. Whether I walk at the water's edge or along a trail or ride my bike on a cared for trail, the sights can be surprising. What a picture of God we see. Yet the shortfall of such a plan is that while we may see "a" god, do we really see God?

That is why God in his infinite wisdom gave us two forms of revelation. We have the natural revelation we love but there is something more. Special revelation is how God gives us a biography of who he is. This is how we come to know that the real, the only true God created all of nature for us to enjoy but also to point us to him. Nature should open and deepen wonder to know more about the Creator.

Being out in the creation is a great introduction to who God is but we need his special gift. Spending time in the gift of his recorded Word helps us to understand that the creation, while still beautiful, is fallen. It also tells us that God provides a plan for the restoration of the creation. Hugging a tree will never give us that! It takes the effort of reading and study of what God has given.

One of the most productive ways to understand the gift of what God wants us to know is through our time spent together in bible study and in worship. It is through this time that we can explore the richness of thought of our God and how he loves us despite who we are or were. The entire Bible is filled with the story of grace from the very beginning to the closing words. We may find them to be more relevant than we thought as we face the trial of each new day.

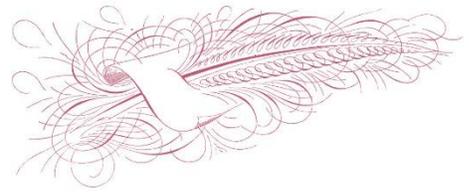
The surprising fact is that the ancient writings still hold much wisdom for us in the modern day. God's wisdom is eternal and he invites us into this eternity with and through his Son Jesus Christ. We can't get that from looking at flowers. Jesus is the Lily of the Valley that has formed the bridge from our broken lives into the righteous life that God desired for all. We only need to receive it by faith.

Next time you may think about spending time outside in nature instead of spending time with other like-minded seekers of God a second thought might be in order. The one hour we spend helps us to prepare for the challenges of the week ahead. It also puts a new perspective on the week we just left behind. It also refocuses our lives in the hopes and promises of the God who gave us the trees and flowers, the wildlife and the sunscapes that will be just as impressive after time spent with the Creator.

See you in church.

Pastor Rus

From The Desk of GOD



Author Unknown

Effective Immediately:

Please be aware that there are changes you need to make in your life. These changes need to be completed in order that I may fulfill my promises to you to grant you peace, joy and happiness in this life. I apologize for any inconvenience, but after all that I am doing, this seems very little to ask of you. I know, I already gave you the 10 Commandments. Keep them. But follow these guidelines as well...

1. QUIT WORRYING

Life has dealt you a blow and all you do is sit and worry. Have you forgotten that I am here to take all your burdens and carry them for you? Or do you just enjoy fretting over every little thing that comes your way?

2. PUT IT ON THE LIST

Something needs done or taken care of. Put it on the list. No, not YOUR list. Put it on MY to-do-list. Let ME be the one to take care of the problem. I can't help you until you turn it over to me. And, although my to-do-list is long, I am, after all, God. I can take care of anything you put into my hands. In fact, if the truth were ever really known, I take care of a lot of things for you that you never even realize.

3. TRUST ME

Once you've given your burdens to me, quit trying to take them back. Trust in me. Have the faith that I will take care of all your needs, your problems and your trials. Problems with the kids? Put them on my list. Problem with finances? Put it on my list. Problems with your emotional roller coaster? For my sake, put it on my list. I want to help you. All you have to do is ask.

4. LEAVE IT ALONE

Don't wake up one morning and say, "Well, I'm feeling much stronger now, I think I can handle it from here." Why do you think you are feeling stronger now? It's simple. You gave me your burdens and I'm taking care of them. I also renew your strength and cover you in my peace. Don't you know that if I give you these problems back, you will be right back where you started? Leave them with me and forget about them. Just let me do my job.

5. TALK TO ME

I want you to forget a lot of things. Forget what was making you crazy. Forget the worry and the fretting because you know I'm in control. But there's one thing I pray you never forget. Please don't forget to talk to me - OFTEN! I love you. I want to hear your voice. I want you to include me in on the things going on in your life. I want to hear you talk about your friends and family. Prayer is simply you having a conversation with me. I want to be your dearest friend.

6. HAVE FAITH

I see a lot of things from up here that you can't see from where you are. Have faith in me that I know what I'm doing. Trust me, you wouldn't want the view from my eyes. I will continue to care for you, watch over you, and meet your needs. You only have to trust me. Although I have a much bigger task than you, it seems as if you have so much trouble just doing your simple part. How hard can trust be?

7. SHARE

You were taught to share when you were only two years old. When did you forget? That rule still applies. Share with those who are less fortunate than you. Share your joy with those who need encouragement. Share your laughter with those who haven't heard any in such a long time. Share your tears with those who have forgotten how to cry. Share your faith with those who have none.

8. BE PATIENT

I managed to fix it so in just one lifetime you could have so many diverse experiences. You grow from a child to an adult, have children, change jobs many times, learn many trades, travel to so many places, meet thousands of people, and experience so much. How can you be so impatient then when it takes me a little longer than you expect to handle something on my to-do-list? Trust in my timing, for my timing is perfect. Just because I created the entire universe in only six days, everyone thinks I should always rush, rush, rush.

9. BE KIND

Be kind to others, for I love them just as much as I love you. They may not dress like you, or talk like you, or live the same way you do, but I still love you all. Please try to get along, for my sake. I created each of you different in some way. It would be too boring if you were all identical. Please know I love each of your differences.

10. LOVE YOURSELF

As much as I love you, how can you not love yourself? You were created by me for one reason only - to be loved, and to love in return. I am a God of Love. Love me. Love your neighbors. But also love yourself. It makes my heart ache when I see you so angry with yourself when things go wrong. You are very precious to me. Don't ever forget that!

With all my heart, I love you,

GOD



August Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

- 8/10 Ruth Haan
- 8/11 Kathy Heeren
- 8/12 Donald Allspach
- 8/18 Charlene Kramer
- 8/24 Pearl Reints
- 8/24 Doris Allspach
- 8/24 Lanae Kramer
- 8/24 Lilly Stirling
- 8/26 Karen Oltman
- 8/30 Mike Pott
- 8/31 Paul Haan
- 8/31 Stacy Edeker

Happy Anniversary

- 8/6 Ryan & Stacy Edeker
- 8/6 Joel & Brandy Reints
- 8/6 Ken & Diane Roberts
- 8/10 Frank & Betty Pott
- 8/13 Dave & Betty Mulder
- 8/23 Paul & Darlene Bruns
- 8/27 Ken & Nancy Mehmen
- 8/30 Gene & Janet Venenga

Reminder: If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please try to have it to Wendy Armstrong by the 20th of the month. My goal is to have the newsletter in your mailboxes on the last Sunday of the month. Thanks!

CRC Service Schedule

	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Coffee*</i>
8/4	Kevin & Shelly (N)	Delbert	Mike & Stacy
	Dennis & Lois (S)		
8/11	Herm & Mary B (N)	Ken Kramer	Ken & Nancy
	Dale & Angie (S)		
8/18	Frank & Betty (N)	Dale	Larry & Mary
	Pat & Deb (S)		
8/25	Ken & Nancy (N)	Joel & Kellen	Arnie & Kay
	Larry & Mary (S)		

*If you are unable to serve coffee on your Sunday as listed, please find your replacement. Thank you.

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 237

Matt.4:23-5.8

Beatitudes

R O O P S P R E A C H I N G I
G C R N I E L U F I C R E M E
N A D R O J L C R O W D S P J
I N H E R I T P D O U T J E M
R T M M O D G N I K J E S O O
E H E A L E D E R C R U U P S
F G E T B O E E R U S R D L E
F S K E D L G L S U N I S E S
U N I A P N E A I D P E D B A
S D N C U S L S A L R F S R E
M E E H K E E E S U A P Y O S
E L V I M N R V Z E I G R U I
R L A N G P E I E R D O I G D
C I E G S O E S I R R H A H E
Y F H L P S D T S H E A R T H

BLESSED EARTH
BROUGHT FILLED
CROWDS GOD
DISCIPLES HEART
DISEASES JESUS
GALILEE JORDAN
HEALED JUDEA
HEAVEN MEEK
HUNGER MERCY
INHERIT MOURN
KINGDOM PAIN
MERCIFUL POOR
PREACHING PEOPLE
SEIZURES PURE
SICKNESS REGION
SPREAD SPIRIT
SUFFERING SYRIA
TEACHING SEVERE

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

JERUSALEM

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